

MAYOR'S Highlights



NOVEMBER 2023

Rick Blangiardi



Aloha la Halewiliko Groundbreaking, 'Aiea (October 17, 2023)

This Month's Highlights

- Affordable Housing Updates Across O'ahu
- County Mayors Tour Lahaina Wildfire Zone
- A Million-Dollar Grant For Art on O'ahu
- How to Weigh In on O'ahu's Climate Strategy
- New City Services Available in Kapolei

Affordable Housing Momentum

It's no secret that O'ahu will need thousands of additional housing units over a five-year period — and it is going to take a continued cross-sector commitment, with the City and County of Honolulu leading the way, to meet current and projected demand.

Last month, the Office of Housing submitted the City's 2023 Housing Plan, which outlines how we will work with our partners in the private and public sectors to drive delivery of approximately 18,000 units between fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2029.

"We envision an O'ahu where all residents, in each of our communities, have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing, regardless of income level, so today's generation and future generations can continue to call our island *home*," the plan reads.

October was marked by several key events that demonstrated our momentum when it comes to housing.

On Oct. 11, Mayor Blangiardi joined local and state leaders for a blessing ceremony at the Hocking Building in Chinatown, where dozens of affordable units are now under construction. The project received nearly

\$4 million from the City's Affordable Housing Fund program.

Three days later, on Oct. 14, ground was broken at 1226 Kina'u St., where developer Paul Lam is leading the effort to build 25 new affordable rental units as part of a project that takes advantage of Bill 1 and Bill 7 — initiatives that provide tax incentives and property tax exemptions to spur housing development. As construction begins on Kina'u St., a similar project, located nearby on Ernest St., is set to open in early November, adding another 25 rental units to the market.

A project that has been in the works for decades took a major step forward on Oct. 17, when Mayor Blangiardi helped break ground on a 140-unit rental housing project for low-income seniors called Aloha la Halewiliko. Located on 3.4 acres of City-owned land at the site of the old 'Aiea Sugar Mill, the project also received roughly \$6 million from the Affordable Housing Fund program for construction costs.

"Last week's groundbreaking gives hope that Honolulu is entering a new era of action on housing and housing affordability," wrote the Star-Advertiser, days after the 'Aiea groundbreaking. With an entire team of dedicated and committed public servants, under the leadership of Mayor Blangiardi, the City stands ready to tackle this housing crisis head-on.



Aloha la Halewiliko Groundbreaking, 'Aiea (October 17, 2023)



1226 Kina'u Groundbreaking, Honolulu (October 14, 2023)



1226 Kina'u Groundbreaking, Honolulu (October 14, 2023)



Hocking Building Blessing, Chinatown (October 11, 2023)

Mayor Blangiardi Tours Lahaina

In a remarkable show of unity and support, Hawai'i's four county mayors — including Mayor Rick Blangiardi — traveled to Maui last month to visit Lahaina town, which was ravaged by the devastating wildfires that swept through on August 8, 2023.

The mayors toured Front Street and Lahaina Harbor and visited one of the re-entry zones, where they extended condolences to residents affected by the disaster. Their presence symbolized resilience and a community sticking together, transcending county lines.

“I don't think I've ever used the words heartbreaking, tragic, and devastating so much as we have in the last couple of months. It's hard to even describe an emotional feeling for all that has transpired here,” said Mayor Rick Blangiardi.

During their visit, the mayors pledged their continued support for Lahaina's recovery and promised to work together to secure the needed resources and assistance for the affected communities.

As Lahaina embarks on the path to recovery, Mayor Blangiardi added that the tragedy on Maui was a wake-up call for everyone and has ordered a review of O'ahu's preparedness when it comes to potential wildfires.



“It was a collaborative effort to make sure that what happened [in Lahaina] doesn't happen on O'ahu, knowing full well that it could,” he added.

Mayor Blangiardi and Managing Director Michael Formby have assembled a risk assessment group made up of more than 20 City departments, along with federal and state partners, to conduct the evaluation.

Aloha, Ka'ili!

A lifelong leader, Ka'ili Trask O'Connell joined the City in early October as the executive director of the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts. MOCA, as the office is also known, plays a pivotal role in shaping the cultural identity of our city, and Ka'ili will lead the charge in advancing its mission.

Tell us about yourself!

“I'm a local girl – born and raised in Kailua. My career has enabled me to lead and inspire teams to achieve great things, tell the brand story for a variety of organizations, and connect with unique and talented people. I love dancing hula, working out at Bootcamp, and spending time with my husband of 31 years and our 3 adult children.”

How can culture and art play a role in our day-to-day lives?

“Hawai'i's cultural diversity makes our islands unique and welcoming. Art is thought-provoking and inspirational. Experiencing and embracing art and culture makes us a richer, stronger and more connected community, even as the wider world struggles with division and prejudice.”

What's your vision for Honolulu's Sister City program, which MOCA oversees?

“MOCA hopes to expand our collaborations, including potential partnerships with Pacific Island countries. We will also strengthen our existing sister city relationships. We can't wait to see what is on the horizon!”

\$1M for MOCA's Wahi Pana Project

The City and County of Honolulu is proud to announce it will receive up to \$1 million in funding for public art. Honolulu is one of just 8 cities across the country to secure a grant through Bloomberg Philanthropies' Public Art Challenge, with more than 150 cities applying.

The grants were awarded for art projects that drive civic progress and strengthen communities. Honolulu's project, “Wahi Pana” (Storyed Places), will present a series of multimedia art installations on O'ahu that connect tourist destinations with their mo'olelo (stories). Native Hawaiian and Hawai'i-based artists will collaborate with cultural experts to create art installations highlighting the complex histories of cultural and historical sites affected by over-tourism.

The project will be spearheaded by the Mayor's Office of Culture and the Arts (MOCA).





'Hawai'i Children and Youth Day' (Frank F. Fasi Civic Grounds)
October 1, 2023

Hundreds of children and families gathered at the Frank F. Fasi Civic Grounds for a day of celebration as Mayor Blangiardi signed a proclamation declaring Oct. 1, 2023 'Hawai'i Children and Youth Day.' The event helps focus public policy to help Hawai'i's youth thrive.



Hono'uli'uli Dedication Ceremony (Hono'uli'uli)
October 12, 2023

Mayor Blangiardi took part in a poignant plaque dedication ceremony at the site of the Hono'uli'uli Internment Camp, honoring the memory of those who suffered there during World War II. The event offered a solemn moment to remember history, pay respects to the internees, and reflect on the importance of never forgetting the past.



2023 HSEA Solar Expo (Ke'ehi Lagoon Memorial)
Thursday, October 19, 2023

Mayor Blangiardi attended the Hawai'i Solar Energy Association's 2023 Solar Expo, touring the many displays showcasing the latest in solar energy technology and speaking to the crowd of industry experts on the importance of improving permitting times for solar-related projects, especially in the commercial sector.

Chinatown Hero Awards Banquet (Chinatown)
October 21, 2023

Mayor Blangiardi achieved an inspiring accolade, winning the 14th annual Chinatown Heroes Award. The honor celebrated the mayor's outstanding contributions to revitalizing and preserving the cultural heritage of Chinatown, underscoring his dedication to the community and commitment to honoring the neighborhood's rich history.

Flavored Tobacco Ban Bill Signing (Honolulu Hale)
October 20, 2023

With youth advocates on hand at Honolulu Hale, Mayor Blangiardi signed a bill designed to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products within the City and County of Honolulu. The law would ban candy-like flavors including bubble gum, gummy bear and POG, which are designed to entice kids into using those harmful products.



Honolulu Pride Parade (Waikiki)
October 21, 2023

Mayor Blangiardi, Managing Director Michael Formby and dozens of City employees and their families participated in this year's Honolulu Pride Parade. The celebration through Waikiki was just one of the ways the City and County of Honolulu celebrated Honolulu Pride Month in 2023. Mayor Blangiardi also requested the Pride flag be raised outside the Frank F. Fasi Municipal Building throughout the month of October, and Honolulu Hale was lit in the rainbow colors of the Pride flag from sundown, October 15 through sunrise on October 21.

Courtesy: Johnny Rocko Hayward

Honolulu's Climate Adaptation Strategy

To adapt to the impacts of a changing climate, the City has created a community-driven climate adaptation strategy called Climate Ready O'ahu that outlines actions for adapting to sea-level rise, increasing temperatures, and other climate hazards. The draft strategy was released in early November, and the City wants your input! Share your mana'o by submitting public comment at climatereadyoahu.org, and learn more from the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency by attending the following events.



Visit climatereadyoahu.org/participate for event details.



11/2	Kailua Farmers Market	11/11	Pearlridge Farmers Market
11/4	Kaimukī High School Craft Fair	11/12	Mililani Farmers Market
11/5	Windward Mall Farmers Market	11/13	Open House at Hau'ula Community Center
11/6 and 11/7	Virtual Open Houses	11/15	Ka Makana Ali'i Farmers Market
11/8	Blaisdell Farmers Market	11/18	Mākeke Wai'anae



Greenest Cities

Honolulu has been awarded second place on the Greenest Cities in America list for 2023, behind only San Diego, California, according to the personal finance company WalletHub. Honolulu excelled in the Transportation category and the Environment category, ranking second and third, respectively.

Expanding City Services!

Good news: the Kapolei Satellite City Hall is testing expanded hours! We're now open from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, as part of a four-day, 10-hour work week pilot program for the location's nine employees. All motor vehicle registration, U.S. passport and other services will be available during the extended hours. During the weeks of Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day in November, and Christmas Day in December, the Kapolei satellite's business hours will revert back to 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the four days those locations are open that week. Bookings on the city's AlohaQ appointment reservation system will be adjusted accordingly. To make an appointment at Kapolei Satellite City Hall, go to www.AlohaQ.org today!

Report An Issue

Have an issue in your community? Report anything, from potholes to graffiti, using the City's 311 program — available now via mobile app or <http://www.honoluluhi.citysourced.com>



Sign Up For City Updates

HNL.info is your one-stop shop for updates from the City! Sign up today to receive emergency alerts, service notifications and information about registering for City activities.



Acknowledging The Past in Waikīkī

Visitors to Waikīkī now have a new way to learn the fascinating story behind the stones of Kapaemahu!



The boulders have stood on the beach there for centuries, but do you know their significance? According to legend, Native Hawaiians hauled the boulders from Kaimukī to Waikīkī as a tribute to four gender fluid, or 'mahu,' Tahitians who traveled to Hawai'i and shared their healing powers and wisdom. Transporting the stones to Waikīkī was a tremendous effort, matched only by the healers' tremendous contributions.

Mayor Rick Blangiardi attended a powerful blessing ceremony on October 24 to help unveil a new plaque that celebrates the stones and their mahu connection. A QR code engraved on the plaque directs people to www.kapaemahu.info, providing more insight about Hawai'i's inclusive history. It also links to an augmented reality app called KAPAEMAHUAR, offering a self-guided tour of the stones in both 'Ōlelo Ni'ihau and English.

Now Open: Kapolei Convenience Center!



For many years, residents of the Leeward Coast have complained about long wait times to dispose of rubbish at convenience centers in Wai'anae, 'Ewa and Waipahū — that's why we are so excited to announce the grand opening of the brand new Kapolei Convenience Center!

Located at 91-184 Kaomi Loop in Kapolei, the new convenience center provides another place for West O'ahu residents to dispose of waste and help prevent illegal dumping across our beautiful island.

The opening of the Kapolei Convenience Center marks a significant step towards promoting a cleaner and healthier environment for Leeward Coast residents. It is the 10th municipal waste disposal facility on O'ahu, and the first new facility of its kind since the Wahiawa Convenience Center was added in 1992.

The facility is now accepting refuse, and is open every day except Christmas and New Year's Day.

Get In Touch Today!

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